United States Mint Announces Designs for World War I Centennial Silver Medals

October 10, 2017

WASHINGTON – The United States Mint today revealed the obverse (heads) and reverse (tails) designs for five silver medals that will be issued in conjunction with the 2018 World War I Centennial Silver Dollar. Each medal, composed of 90 percent silver, pays homage to branches of the U.S. Armed Forces that were active in World War I. Design descriptions and the respective minting facilities are below.

World War I Centennial Army Medal – West Point Mint
The Army medal design depicts a soldier cutting through German barbed wire, while a second soldier aims a rifle amid a shattered landscape of broken trees and cratered earth. A shell explodes in the distance. The medal's reverse design features the United States Army emblem, which was also in use during World War I, with the inscriptions "OVER THERE!," "CENTENNIAL OF WORLD WAR I," "2018," and "UNITED STATES ARMY."

The obverse was designed by United States Mint Artistic Infusion Program (AIP) Designer Emily Damstra and sculpted by now retired United States Mint Sculptor-Engraver Don Everhart, who also designed and sculpted the reverse.

World War I Centennial Marine Corps Medal – San Francisco Mint
The Marine Corps medal's obverse design depicts the aftermath of the Battle of Belleau Wood. One Marine stands guard as the other kneels to pay respect to the fallen. The inscription quotes a report to the American Expeditionary Forces: "WOODS NOW U.S. MARINE CORPS ENTIRELY." The medal's reverse design features the World War I-era version of the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor emblem with the inscriptions "CENTENNIAL OF WORLD WAR I," "2018," "OVER THERE!," and "BATTLE OF BELLEAU WOOD."

The obverse was designed by AIP Designer Chris Costello and sculpted by United States Mint Sculptor-Engraver Michael Gaudioso. The reverse was designed and sculpted by United States Mint Sculptor-Engraver Joseph Menna.

World War I Centennial Navy Medal – Philadelphia Mint
The obverse design of the Navy medal depicts a U.S. Navy destroyer on escort duty after deploying a depth charge in defense of a convoy. Above the destroyer, kite balloons provide Navy personnel a platform to spot submarines and other dangers. The inscription "OVER THERE!" appears at the bottom of the design. The medal's reverse design features an Officer's Cap Device* used in World War I. Inscriptions are "UNITED STATES NAVY," "2018," and "CENTENNIAL OF WORLD WAR I." (*Note: An official, uniform seal of the United States Navy had not been adopted at the time of World War I.)

The obverse was designed by Chris Costello and sculpted by Michael Gaudioso, while the reverse was designed and sculpted by United States Mint Sculptor-Engraver Renata Gordon.

World War I Centennial Air Service Medal – Denver Mint
The obverse of the Air Service medal design depicts the iconic SPAD XIII, a World War I fighter flown by many Americans and valued for its speed, strength, and firepower, viewed from the top and side. The inscription "SPAD XIII" identifies the aircraft. The medal's reverse design features the Military Aviator Insignia with the inscriptions "CENTENNIAL OF WORLD WAR I," "2018," "OVER THERE!," "AIR SERVICE," and "AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES."

This obverse was designed by AIP Designer Ronald D. Sanders and sculpted by Joseph Menna, who also designed and sculpted the reverse.

World War I Centennial Coast Guard Medal – Philadelphia Mint
The obverse of the Coast Guard medal depicts a lifeboat from the Coast Guard Cutter USCGC *Seneca* heading out in heavy seas toward the torpedoed steamship *Wellington*. The reverse design features the World War I-era Coast Guard emblem, with the inscriptions "CENTENNIAL OF WORLD WAR I," "2018," and "OVER THERE!"

Both the obverse and reverse of the Coast Guard medal were designed and sculpted by United States Mint Sculptor-Engraver Phebe Hemphill.

Each silver medal will be paired with a World War I Centennial Silver Dollar and offered as a special set. These medals will not be available individually. Additional information about these sets will be available prior to their release in 2018.

About the United States Mint
The United States Mint was created by Congress in 1792 and became part of the Department of the Treasury in 1873. It is the Nation's sole manufacturer of legal tender coinage and is responsible for producing circulating coinage for the Nation to conduct its trade and commerce. The United States Mint also produces numismatic products, including proof, uncirculated, and commemorative coins; Congressional Gold Medals; and silver and gold bullion coins. Its numismatic programs are self-sustaining and operate at no cost to taxpayers. The Mint is celebrating its 225th anniversary in 2017 (#USMint225).

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- Additional information about the World War I Centennial Silver Medals.
- For information about the United States Mint, please visit /about/about.
- To subscribe to United States Mint electronic product notifications, news releases, and public statements, visit https://catalog.usmint.gov/email-signup.
- Sign up for RSS Feeds from the United States Mint and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Pinterest.

# # #

United States Mint – Connecting America through Coins

Contact
Press Inquiries: Office of Corporate Communications (202) 354-7222
Customer Service Information: (800) USA MINT (872-6468)

1-800-USA-MINT

SIGN UP FOR EMAIL UPDATES AND TEXT MESSAGE ALERTS ABOUT PRODUCTS

EMAIL ADDRESS Subscribe

+1 ### ### ### Sign Up

Privacy Policy Terms of Use Accessibility Plug-Ins Site Map

© 2019 United States Mint All Rights Reserved.